

CHAPTER 1: General Provisions	
101. Statutory Authority	3
102. Non-Discrimination	3
103. Purpose	3
104. Definitions	3
CHAPTER 2: Fees	
201. Fee Schedule	4
202. Fines and Penalties	4
203. General Provisions	5
204. Re-application Fee	5
205. Requests for Labels of Current Licensees	5
CHAPTER 3: Organization	
301. Mississippi Board of Massage Therapist	5
302. Board Operations	6
303. Open Meeting Law	8
304. Oral Proceedings	8
305. Declaratory Opinions	10
CHAPTER 4: Registration Requirements	
401. General Requirements	12
402. Education Requirements	12
403. Massage Therapy Curriculum Requirements	13
404. Examination Requirements	14
405. Agreement of Reciprocity	14
CHAPTER 5: Application Procedure	
501. Phases of the Application Process	15
502. Administration Appeal	15
CHAPTER 6: Registration Renewal, Directory, and Duplicate/Replacement Wall Certificates	
601. Renewal	15
602. The State of Mississippi Directory of Registered Massage Therapist	16
603. Duplicate/Replacement Wall Certificates	16
CHAPTER 7: Professional Responsibilities	
701. Standards of Practice	17
702. Exemption From Licensure	17
703. Representation as "Massage Therapist" by an Unregistered Person	17
704. Advertising	18
705. Duties and responsibilities of registered massage therapist	18
CHAPTER 8: Complaints, Disciplinary Hearings, Sanctions, Disciplinary Appeal	
801. Grounds for Disciplinary Action	19
802. Complaint Procedures	20
803. Notice of Complaint and Disciplinary Hearing	20
804. Sanctions	21
805. Disciplinary Appeal	21
806. Reinstatement Following Disciplinary Action	21
CHAPTER 9: Schools and Instructor Qualifications	
901. Instructor Qualifications	21
902. School Application for Licensure	22
903. Annex School Locations	23
904. Refund Policy	24
905. Disclosure of Information to Students	25
906. Admissions & Recruitment	26
907. Advertisement	26
908. Records	27
909. Certificates or Diplomas	27

910.	Instructional Resources and Materials	27
911.	Educational Facilities	28
912.	Classroom Facilities	28
913.	Student – Instructor Ratio	28
914.	Educational Standards	28
915.	Attendance and Sign In Sheets	29
916.	Employment Based on Commission	29
917.	Changes during the school licensure period.....	29
918.	School Change of Ownership, Location or Trade Name; Addition of Partners; Renovation of School .	30
919.	Evaluation of a School	31
920.	School Closing	31
921.	School License Renewal	32
922.	School License Suspension/Revocation or Cancellation:	32

CHAPTER 10: Continuing Education Requirements, Provider and Programs

1001.	Continuing Education Requirements	32
1002.	Continuing Education Providers and Programs	33

CHAPTER 11: Massage Establishments

1101.	Advertising	35
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CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS:

101. Statutory Authority

The State Legislature granted Statutory Authority for the registration of Professional Massage Therapists in 2001. Section 73-67-1 et seq., of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated provides for the regulation of the practice of massage as well as the use of the title "Registered Massage Therapist" for those who offer massage services to the public for fees. In 2004, authority to regulate Massage Therapy Schools, programs and instructors was granted.

102. Non-Discrimination

The Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy does not discriminate against any applicant, candidate, or registrant because of race, color, creed sex, religion, national origin, age, physical handicap, disability, or political affiliation.

103. Purpose

- A. The purpose of these rules shall be to provide interpretation and application guidelines regarding state law as indicated in Chapter 1, Section 1 above and to communicate established procedures and requirements for the following:
1. The establishment of a State Board of Massage Therapist;
 2. The selection of Board members;
 3. The establishment of rules and procedures for Board meetings;
 4. Standards and qualifications requisite in the issuance of certificates of registration;
 5. Evaluation of qualifications of individuals applying for certificates of registration;
 6. Issuance and renewal of certificates of registrations to qualified persons;
 7. Setting fees necessary for administration of the registration program; and,
 8. Establishing criteria for disciplinary actions against registrants.

104. Definitions § 73-67-7

- A. "Approved massage therapy school" means a facility that meets the school requirements as stated in §73-67-1 et seq. Miss. Code Ann. (1972) as amended.
- B. "Board" means the state board for registering massage therapists as created by §73-67-9, Miss. Code Ann. (1972) as amended.
- C. "Board-accepted hours" means hours of education accepted by the board to meet requirements of exemption and/or continuing education for pre-act practitioners and is different from "board approved programs" and/or "board-approved school hours."
- D. "Classroom hour" means no less than fifty (50) minutes of any one (1) clock hour during which the student participates in a learning activity under the supervision of a member of the faculty of the school.
- E. "Examination" means the State Board of Massage Therapy approved examination for registration.
- F. "Certificate of registration" means a State Board of Massage Therapy approved form of credential indicating that the certificate holder has met the requirements of the Board for the practice of massage therapy.
- G. "Massage" means touch, stroking, kneading, stretching, friction, percussion and vibration, and includes holding, positioning, causing movement of the soft tissues and applying manual touch and pressure to the body (excluding an osseous tissue manipulation or adjustment). "Therapy" means action aimed at achieving or increasing health and wellness. "Massage therapy means the profession in which the practitioner applies massage techniques with the intent of positively affecting the health and well-being of the client, and may adjunctively (i) apply allied modalities, heat, cold water and topical preparations not classified as prescription drugs, (ii) use hand held

tools such as electrical hand massagers used adjunctively to the application of hand massage or devices designed as t-bars or knobblies, and (iii) instruct self care and stress management.

"Manual" means by use of hand or body.

H. "Massage establishment" means a place of business where massage is being conducted.

I. "Massage therapist" means a person who practices massage therapy.

J. "MPMTA" means the "Mississippi Professional Massage Therapy Act"

K. "Pre-act practitioner" means an individual who has practiced professional massage therapy before January 1, 2001.

L. "Professional" means requiring minimum standards of conduct, ethics and education.

M. "Provisional permit" means a temporary certificate of registration approved by the board when all requirements have been met and until the next Mississippi Law/Rules & Regulations course occurs, not to exceed 90 days.

CHAPTER 2

FEES:

201. Fee Schedule

A.	Application Packet Fee (or actual per page cost) if mailed	\$15.00
B.	Application Fee for Registration	\$50.00
C.	Two year Renewal Fee	\$192.00*
D.	Renewal Late Fee	\$100.00
E.	Additional Certificate	\$25.00
F.	Replacement Certificate Fee or Certificate Renewal Fee	\$10.00
G.	Reapplication Fee.....	\$175.00
H.	Code of Ethics	\$5.00
I.	Provisional permit	\$30.00
J.	Directory or Labels of Registered Massage Therapist	\$50.00
K.	Mississippi Board Examination Fee :	
	\$200 if attended in-state school, \$300 for out-of-state school	
L.	Instructor Registration or Renewal Fee	\$50.00
M.	Instructor Registration or Renewal Late Fee	\$100.00
N.	Per Page Copying Fee (plus postage if mailed)	\$0.50
O.	Continuing education provider biennial fee	\$100.00
P.	Continuing education program approval fee	\$50.00
Q.	Annual Inactive fee	\$10.00
R.	Mobile Therapist wallet size certificate.....	\$10.00
S.	Mississippi Law/Rules & Regulations course for the purpose of reciprocity	\$100.00

* Optional 1 year renewal available for the year 2005 only with \$8.00 for each additional month from June 2005 to the individuals' anniversary of original issue.

202. Fines and Penalties

A. The Board shall establish reasonable and customary fines and penalties. Any violation of the Rules and Regulations, or provisions of 73-67-1 through 73-67-39, shall be punishable by a fine of no less than \$25.00 or no more than \$100.00 per occurrence unless otherwise set forth by rule or statutory provision. Fine schedule for first offense: (includes but not limited to)

1. Working without a certificate of registration properly displayed - \$25.00 to \$100.00.
2. Working without a certificate of registration for that location - \$25.00 - \$100.00.
3. Working without a Code of Ethics properly displayed - \$25.00 - 100.00.
4. Continuing to work with an expired Provisional Permit - \$100.00 - \$500.00.

5. Continuing to work with an expired certificate of registration - \$100.00 - \$500.00.

- B. Certificates of registration may not be renewed if fines or penalties are outstanding.
- C. It shall be the responsibility of a massage therapy establishment to verify the current registration of any and all persons practicing massage therapy at the location of or on behalf of the establishment. Failure to comply is subject to penalty assessed by the board of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and not more than One Thousand (\$1000.00) per offense.

203: General Provisions

- A. All fees are non-refundable.
- B. Fees shall be paid in full by a cashiers check or money order made payable to MSBMT (Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy). Personal checks will be returned.
- C. No application shall be considered complete unless accompanied by the required fees.

204: Re-application Fee

- A. The Re-application Fee is charged when a RMT, who has allowed his/her certificate of registration to lapse or become inactive, seeks to return to current status. This fee is always charged in addition to the current renewal fee.

205: Request for Directory or Labels of current Registered Massage Therapist

- A. A Directory or Labels of current registered massage therapist shall be updated annually and made available to CEU Providers registered with the Board and other massage related service at the discretion of the Board, upon written request and payment of the required fee.
- B. Labels shall be made available to Mississippi state agencies upon request at no cost.

CHAPTER 3

Organization

301: Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapist

- A. Composition and Appointment
 - 1. The Board shall consist of five (5) members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.
 - 2. At least three (3) members shall be appointed from a list submitted by State representatives of one or more nationally recognized professional massage therapy association (s), all of whom must be residents of Mississippi and must have engaged in the practice of massage therapy within the state for at least three (3) years.
 - 3. One (1) member shall be a registered health professional in a health field other than massage therapy and one (1) member shall be a consumer at large who is not associated with or finically interested in the practice or business of massage therapy.
 - 4. Initial appointments to the board will be for staggered terms. All subsequent appointments to the board shall be appointed by the Governor for the terms of four (4) years from the expiration date of the previous term. No person shall be appointed for more than two (2) consecutive terms. By approval of the majority of the board, the service of a member may be extended at the completion of a four-year term until a new member is appointed or the current member is reappointed.
 - 5. Board members shall receive the per diem authorized under Section 25-3-69 for each day actually discharging his official duties, and shall receive reimbursement for mileage and necessary expense incurred, as provided in Section 25-3-41.

6. No Board member shall be associated with or have financial interest in a school of massage therapy in the State of Mississippi. Nothing in these rules shall prohibit a board member from being an instructor in a school of massage therapy provided they are registered as an instructor with this board.
- B. Oath, Officer Elections and Exemption from Civil Liability
1. The board shall elect one (1) of the appointed massage therapists as the chairman of the board.
 2. Each board member shall be held accountable to the Governor for the proper performance of all duties and obligations of the member's office.
 3. A Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer shall be chosen by the Board from among its members in January of even numbered years.
 4. Board members shall be immune from civil liability pertaining to any legal functions involving the carrying out of the activities and responsibilities of the board.

302: Board Operations

A. The Board shall:

1. Adopt an official seal and keep a record of its proceedings, persons registered as massage therapists, and a record of the certificates of registration that have been revoked or suspended;
2. Keep on file all appropriate records pertaining to each certificate of registration;
3. Annually, on or before February 15, make a report to the Governor and Legislature of all of its official acts during the preceding year, its total receipts and disbursements, and a full and complete report of relevant statistical and significantly notable conditions of massage therapists in this state as uniformly stipulated by the board;
4. Evaluate the qualifications of applicants for registration under this act, and advise applicants as to the acceptance or denial of registration with any reasons for denial within forty-five (45) days;
5. Issue certificates of registration to applicants who meet the requirements of the Board;
6. Inspect, or have inspected, when required, the business premises of any registered massage therapist during their operating hours, so long as such inspection does not infringe on the reasonable privacy of any therapists' clients;
7. Establish minimum training and educational standards for obtaining a certificate of registration, provided that requirements do not decrease;
8. Establish a procedure for approval of educational standards.
9. Investigate persons suspected of engaging in practices which may violate provisions of the law, rules and regulations governing massage therapists;
10. Revoke, suspend or deny a certificate of registration in accordance with the provisions of the law, rules and regulations governing massage therapists;
11. Adopt an annual budget;
12. Establish policies with respect to continuing education;
13. Adopt rules:
 - a. Specifying standards and procedures for issuance of provisional certificate of registration and provisional permit;
 - b. Specifying registration procedures for practitioners desiring to be registered in this state who hold an active registered or credentials from another state board;
 - c. The Board shall prescribe renewal procedures, requirements, dates and fees for massage therapy certificates of registration issued by the board and shall include provisions for inactive and lapsed certificates;
 - d. Make available all forms necessary for carrying out all provisions of this act and any and all necessary business of the Board;

- e. Establish written duties of the executive director;
 - f. Establish a set of reasonable and customary fines and penalties for violations of this act, and fees, including refund policies, which shall be standardized and not exceeded unless amended with at least thirty (30) days' notice to those who are registered;
 - g. Establish, amend or repeal any rules or regulations necessary to carry out the purposes of the law, rules and regulations governing massage therapists. Affected practitioners shall be sent relevant changes no less than once per registration renewal;
 - h. The board shall maintain a current register listing the name of every massage therapist registered to practice in this state, his/her last known place of business and the last known place of residence, and the date and number of his/her certificate of registration.
- B. The Board will hold at least four (4) regular meetings each year. Additional meetings may be called by the Chair of the Board or at the written request of any four (4) members of the Board.
 - C. Meeting dates, times, and locations are published in the Board's minutes.
 - D. An organizational meeting shall be held in January of even numbered years for the purpose of electing officers.
 - E. All meetings of the Board are open to the public, and citizens are encouraged to attend meetings.

The following regulation is enacted for the purpose of providing reasonable written procedures concerning the cost, time, place, and method of access, under the provisions of the Mississippi Public Record Act of 1983 (Open Records Act). It is not intended that these procedures shall apply to any public record or other document, which is exempt from the provisions of said Act or not covered by the provisions of the Open Records Act.

1. Any individual seeking to inspect, copy or mechanically reproduce or obtain a reproduction of any public record of the board should make a written request, signed by themselves to be mailed to the Executive Director; Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy; P.O. Box 12489; Jackson, MS 39236-2489.
2. The written request must be typed or clearly hand printed on a letter size piece of paper and shall specify in detail the public record sought. The request should include if possible a description of the type of record, dates, title of a publication, and other information which may aid in locating the record.
3. The written request must specify what the applicant proposed to do with the record, i.e., inspect, copy, etc.; state the date and time for the proposed activity; state the number of persons scheduled to participate; and shall provide the name, address, and home and office telephone number of the applicant.
4. The Executive Director, upon receipt of any such request, shall review same and determine whether the records sought are exempt under the Mississippi Public Records Act, and shall either produce records or access to records or deny access to or production of the records sought within fourteen (14) working days of the receipt of the request.
5. All inspection, copying or mechanical reproduction shall be done in the offices of the board or such other reasonable place within the State of Mississippi as may be designated by the board. It shall be the duty of the applicant to contact the Executive Director by phone before noon of the first working day preceding the proposed date set out in the application to determine if same is acceptable and, if not, what date and/or time will be substituted.
6. Where possible, nonexempt material will be separated from exempt material and only the exempt material will be withheld.

7. If the Executive director determines that the records requested are exempt or privileged under the law, he shall deny the request and shall send the person making the request a statement of specific reasons for the denial. Such denials shall be kept on file for inspection by any person for three (3) years.
 8. The Executive Director is authorized to calculate the estimated cost of searching, obtaining from storage, reviewing, shipping and/or duplicating records and to require payment in advance of such estimated charges prior to complying with the request. There shall be a charge of \$0.50 per page for each copy. Copies printed on both sides (front & back) shall be considered as two pages for copy charge purposes. Mailing cost shall be calculated at the applicable rate for each such mailing. If request involves notice to be given to a third party, the cost of mailing such notice via certified mail return receipt requested shall be charged to the person requesting such public records. In the event the actual cost of such activity exceeds the estimate, the Executive Director is authorized to withhold mailing or delivery of said documents or to delay the inspection until the difference is paid.
 9. There shall be no charge for inspection of the current board records maintained at the board office. Cost of obtaining records from any state storage facilities and the search for it shall be charged to the applicant.
 10. The Executive Director may waive any or all of the foregoing requirements related to written notice, time, and method of access prepayment of expenses whenever the determination is made that such waiver would be in the public interest.
- F. Information regarding the Board's activities, submissions to the Board, and requests of the Board should be made in writing to the Board.
- G. Individuals who wish to be included on the Board's agenda must submit a written request to the Board on the Agenda Request Form provided by the Board. The Board must receive this request at least ten (10) working days prior to the regularly scheduled Board meeting.
- H. The board will review only complete applications for registration. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant.
- I. The Board may deny initial application for registration or registration renewal for the following reasons, including, but not limited to:
1. Failure to meet all requirements for registration;
 2. Failure to pay required fees;
 3. Conviction of a felony;
 4. Unacceptable or unregistered practice of the applicant;
 5. Violation of the ethical code;
 6. Declaration of mental incompetence by the court.
 7. Has been convicted of any felony, other than a violation of federal or State tax laws.

303: Open Meetings Law

The Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy shall adhere to the Open Meetings Law Section 25-41-3, Miss Code Ann.(1972) as amended.

304: Oral Proceeding

This rule applies to all oral proceeding held for the purposes of providing the public with an opportunity to make oral presentations on proposed new rules and amendments to rules before the Board pursuant to rule 304.

- A. The Board will conduct an oral proceeding on a proposed rule or amendment if requested by a political subdivision, an agency or ten (10) persons in writing within twenty (20) days after the filing of the notice of the proposed rule.

- B. Each request must be printed or typewritten, or must be legible handwriting. Each request must be submitted on standard business letter-sized paper (8-1/2 inches by 11 inches). Requests may be in the form of a letter addressed to the Board and signed by the requestor(s).
- C. The date, time, and place of all oral proceedings shall be filed with the Secretary of State's office and mailed to each requestor. The oral proceedings will be scheduled no earlier than twenty (20) days from the filing of this information with the Secretary of State.
- D. The Chairman or his designee, who is familiar with the substance of the proposed rule, shall preside at the oral proceeding on a proposed rule.
- E. **Public Presentations and Participation.**
 - 1. At an oral proceeding on a proposed rule, persons may make oral statements and make documentary and physical submissions, which may include data, views, comments or arguments concerning the proposed rule.
 - 2. Persons wishing to make oral presentations at such a proceeding shall notify the Board at least one business day prior to the proceeding and indicate the general subject of their presentations. The presiding officers in his or her discretion may allow individuals to participate that have not previously contacted the Board.
 - 2. At the proceeding, those who participate shall indicate their names and address identify any persons or organizations they may represent, and provide any other information relating to their participation deemed appropriate by the presiding officers.
 - 3. The presiding officer may place time limitations on individual oral presentations when necessary to assure the orderly and expeditious conduct of the oral proceeding. To encourage joint oral presentations and avoid repetition, additional time may be provided for persons whose presentations represent the views of other individuals as well as their own views.
 - 4. Persons making oral presentations are encouraged to avoid restating matters that have already been stated.
 - 5. There shall be no interruption of a participant who has given the floor by the presiding officer, except that the presiding officer may in his or her discretion interrupt or end the participant's time where the orderly conduct of the proceeding so requires.
- F. **Conduct of Oral Proceeding.**
 - 1. **Presiding officer.** The presiding officer shall have authority to conduct the proceeding in his or her discretion for the orderly conduct of the proceeding. The presiding officer shall (i) call proceeding to order; (ii) give a brief synopsis of the proposed rule, a statement of the statutory authority for the proposed rule, and the reasons provided by the Board for the proposed rule; (iii) call on those individuals who have contacted the Board about speaking on or against the proposed rule; (iv) allow for rebuttal statements following all participant's comments; (v) adjourn the proceeding.
 - 2. **Questions.** The presiding officer, where time permits and to facilitate the exchange of information, may open the floor to questions or general discussion. The presiding officer may question participants and permit the questioning of participants by other participants about any matters relating to that rule-making proceeding, including any prior written submissions made by those participants in that proceeding, but no participant shall be required to answer any questions.

3. Physical and Documentary Submissions. Submissions presented by participants in an oral proceeding shall be submitted to the presiding officer. Such submissions become the property of the Board and are subject to the Board's public records request procedure.
4. Recording. The Board may record oral proceedings by stenographic or electronic means.

305 DECLARATORY OPINIONS

These rules set forth the Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy hereinafter "Board", rules governing the form and content of requests for declaratory opinions, and the Board's procedures regarding the requests as required by Mississippi Code 305. These rules are intended to supplement and to be read in conjunction with the provisions of the Mississippi Administrative Procedure Law, which contain additional information regarding the issuance of declaratory opinions. In the event of any conflict between these rules and the Mississippi Administrative Procedure law, the latter shall govern

- A. Any person with a substantial interest in the matter may request a declaratory opinion from the Board by following the specified procedures. "Substantial interest in the subject matter" means: an individual, business, group, or other entity that is directly affected by the Board's administration of the law within its primary jurisdiction. "Primary jurisdiction of the Board" means the board has a constitutional or statutory grant of authority in the subject matter at issue.
- B. The Board will issue declaratory opinion regarding the applicability to specified facts of (1) a statute administered or enforceable by the Board or (2) a rule promulgated by the Board. The Board will not issue a declaratory opinion regarding a statute or rule which is outside the primary jurisdiction of the agency
- C. The Board may, for good cause, refuse to issue a declaratory opinion. The circumstances in which declaratory opinions will not be issued include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 - (1) lack of clarity;
 - (2) there is pending or anticipated litigation, administrative action, or other adjudication which may be either answer the question presented by the request or other wise make and answer unnecessary;
 - (3) the statue or rule on which a declaratory opinion is sought is clear and not in need of interpretation to answer the question presented by the request;
 - (4) the facts presented in the request are not sufficient to answer the question presented;
 - (5) the request fails to contain information by these rules or the requestor failed to follow the procedure set forth in these rule;
 - (6) the request seeks to resolve issues which have become moot, or are abstract or hypothetical such that the requestor is not substantially affected by the statues or rule on which a declaratory opinion is sought;
 - (7) no controversy exists concerning the issue as the requestor is not faced with existing facts or those certain to arise which raise a question concerning the application of the statute or rule;
 - (8) the question presented by the request concerns the legal validity of a statute or rule;
 - (9) the request is not based upon facts calculated to aid in the planning of future conduct but is, instead , based on past conduct in an effort to establish the effect of that conduct;
 - (10) clear answer is determinable;
 - (11) the question presented by the request involve the application of a criminal

- statute or a set of facts which may constitute a crime ;
 - (12) the answer to the question presented would require the disclosure of information which is privileged or otherwise protected by law from disclosure;
 - (13) the question is currently the subject of an Attorney General's opinion request of has been answered by an Attorney General's opinion;
 - (14) a similar request is pending before this Board or any agency or a proceeding is pending on the same subject matter before any agency, administrative or judicial tribunal, or where such an opinion would constitute the unauthorized practice of law;
 - (15) where issuance of a declaratory opinion may adversely affect the interest of the State, the Board or any of their officers or employees in any litigation which is pending or may reasonably be expected to arise;
 - (16) the question involves eligibility for a license, permit, certificate, or other approval by the Board or some other agency, and there is a statutory or regulatory application process by which eligibility for said license, permit, certificate, or other approval would be determined.
- D. Each request must be printed or typewritten, or must be in legible handwriting. Each request must be submitted on standard business letter-sized paper (8-1/2 inches by 11 inches). Request may be in the form of a letter addressed to the Board.
- E. All requests must be mailed, delivered, or transmitted via facsimile to the Board. The request shall clearly state that it is a request for a declaratory opinion. No oral telephone requests. Or e-mail requests will be accepted.
- F. Each request must include the full name, telephone number, and mailing address of the requestor. All requests shall be signed by the person filing the request, who shall attest that the request complies with the requirements set forth in these rules, including but not limited to a full, complete, and accurate statement of relevant facts and that there are no related proceedings pending before any other administrative or judicial tribunal.
- G. Each request shall contain the following:
- (1) a clear and concise statement of all facts on which the opinion is requested
 - (2) a citation to the statute or rule at issue
 - (3) the question(s) sought to be answered in the opinion, stated clearly
 - (4) a suggested proposed opinion from the requestor, stating the answers desired by petitioner and a summary of the reasons in support of those answers;
 - (5) the identity of all other know persons involved in or impacted by the described factual situation, including their relationship to the facts, name mailing address, and telephone number; and
 - (6) a statement to show that the person seeking the opinion has a substantial interest in the subject matter.
- H. With-in forty-five (45) days after the receipt of a request for a declaratory opinion which complies with the requirements of these rules, the Board shall, in writing
- (1) issue a declaratory opinion regarding the specific statute or rule as applied to the specific circumstances;
 - (2) decline to issue a declaratory opinion, stating the reason for its action; or
 - (3) agree to issue a declaratory opinion by a specific time but not later than ninety (90) days after receipt of the written request.
- The forty-five (45) day period shall beginning running on the first state of Mississippi business day on or after the request is received by the Board, whichever is sooner.
- I. A declaratory opinion shall not become final until the expiration of sixty (60) days after the issuance of the opinion. Prior to the expiration of sixty (60) days, the Board

may, in its discretion, withdraw or amend the declaratory opinion for any reason which is not arbitrary or capricious. Reasons for withdrawing or amending an opinion include, but are not limited to, a determination that the request failed to meet the requirements of these rules or that the opinion issued contain a legal or factual error.

- J. The Board may give notice to any person, agency, or entity that a declaratory opinion has been requested and may receive and consider data, facts, arguments, and opinions from other persons, agencies or other entities other than the requestor.
- K. Declaratory opinions and requests for declaratory opinion shall be available for public inspection and copying in accordance with the Public Records Act and the Board's public records request procedure. All declaratory opinions and request shall be indexed by name and subject. Declaratory opinions and requests which contain information which is confidential or exempt from disclosure under the Mississippi Public Records Act or other laws shall be exempt from the requirement and shall remain confidential.
- L. The Board will not pursue any civil, criminal or administrative action against a person who is issued a declaratory opinion from the Board and who in good faith, follows the direction of the opinion and acts in accordance therewith unless a court of competent jurisdiction holds that the opinion is manifestly wrong. Any declaratory opinion rendered by the Board shall be binding only on the Board and the person to whom the opinion is issued. No declaratory opinion will be used as precedent for any transaction or occurrence beyond that set forth by the requesting person.

CHAPTER 4

Registration Requirements

401: General Requirements

- A. No person shall practice massage for compensation in the State of Mississippi except as provided by state statute and these regulations.
- B. An applicant must be eighteen (18) years of age, or older, on the date the application is submitted.
- C. An applicant must provide proof of high school graduate equivalency or testify to the fact.
- D. An applicant must be of legal status not only to receive a certificate of registration, but also to work in the State of Mississippi with such certificate of registration.
- E. All required fees for registration must be submitted by the applicant with a cashiers check or Money order.
- F. Any and all requirements regarding good moral character and competency, as provided for in Accepted codes of ethics shall be met.
- G. The Board must receive a complete application packet and official transcript(s) by the established application deadline for the application to be considered for registration at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

402: Education Requirements

The following is a list of education requirements, which all applicants must meet in order to be registered:

- A. To obtain a massage therapy certificate of registration, an applicant must submit to the Board the applicant's official and certified transcript (s) from the applicant's massage therapy school. Official transcripts must be submitted to the Board directly from the approved massage therapy school.
- B. The transcript must verify that the applicant has completed a board-approved training program of not less than six hundred (600) hours of supervised in-class massage therapy instruction, and at

least one hundred (100) hours of student clinic, with a minimum grade requirement of "C" or better in every course of instruction, in the following subjects:

1. Two hundred (200) hours in massage theory and practicum, which must include a minimum of the following classroom hours in the specified subject areas:
 - a. Ten (10) hours in legalities including Mississippi massage law and ethics;
 - b. Twenty (20) hours in history, benefits, indications and contraindications;
 - c. One hundred (100) hours in massage demonstration and supervised practice, Which must include, but is not limited to, client evaluation, stroking, kneading, Stretching, friction, percussion, vibration, range of motion, hand held tools and Devices designated as t-bars or knobblies, electric hand held massagers, and draping and turning; and
 - d. The remaining seventy (70) hours may expand on any or all of the previous three (3) subject areas and/or be related to practical massage.
2. Two hundred (200) hours in science of the human body and must include a minimum Of the following classroom hours in the specified subject areas:
 - a. Twenty (20) hours in anatomy, including all body systems;
 - b. Twenty (20) hours in physiology, including all body systems;
 - c. Twenty (20) hours in myology/kinesiology;
 - d. Twenty (20) hours in neurology;
 - e. Twenty (20) hours in pathology, including medical terminology; and
 - f. The remaining one hundred (100) hours may expand on any or all of the previous six (6) subject areas and/or be related to the science of the human body.
3. Two hundred (200) hours in allied modalities and must include, but are not limited to, a minimum of the following classroom hours in the specified subject areas:
 - a. Seven (7) hours in Eastern, European and Western theory/methods;
 - b. Eight (8) hours in cardiopulmonary resuscitation CPR and first aid;
 - c. Ten (10) hours in charting and documentation;
 - d. Twenty-five (25) hours in hydrotherapy and infrared heat;
 - e. Twenty (20) hours in referral methods within the health care system; and
 - f. The remaining one hundred thirty (130) hours may expand on any or all of the previous five (5) subject areas, including The Americans with Disabilities Act, and/or be devoted to any approach to massage therapy and wellness, such as trigger points, management, communication, safety, oriental or Eastern massage techniques and specialized populations.
4. One hundred (100) hours in student clinic and must include at least thirty (30) practical hands-on one-hour massage therapy sessions, outside of class, to be evaluated on documents filed and kept on record at the school for a minimum of six (6) months. These evaluations are to be completed by the clients of the massage therapy sessions and shall include the client's name, address, reason for session, indications and contraindications, date and signature. Each completed session shall constitute two (2) hours of student clinic. One half hour may be given for preparation and charting for no show appointments in student clinic with a maximum of 5 hours to be obtained in this manner. The hands-on session may be supervised or nonsupervised. The remaining forty (40) hours shall be acquired in an actual clinical massage therapy establishment, student clinic or location (s) approved by the school. These remaining forty (40) hours shall be supervised, either directly or indirectly, and shall also be documented.

403: Massage Therapy Curriculum Requirements

A massage therapy program shall not operate in the State of Mississippi unless it meets the minimum standards of curriculum for registration approved by the board and is licensed with the State Board of Massage Therapy.

- A. Massage schools and massage curriculums for registration preparation must obtain a national accreditation from such agencies as the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation or programs with the same or greater requirements. Existing massage schools will have five (5) years from July 1, 2001, to obtain that accreditation and by June 30, 2003 shall show proof of application with periodic reporting to the board of its progress. New massage schools will have five (5) years from opening of the massage school to show conformance with the accreditation requirements and shall within two years from opening show proof of application with periodic reporting to the board of its progress.
- B. No massage therapy program shall consist of more than forty (40) in-class clock hours per week.
- C. Hours credited through transfer credit shall not be recognized by the board unless the following transfer standards are met:
 - 1. The transferring school shall provide a certified transcript that includes the schools name, state registered number, physical address and mailing address if different, telephone number and signed by the owner, director or administrator of the school
 - 2. Courses for which credit is granted shall parallel in content and intensity to the course offered by the school;
 - 3. Documentation of previous training shall be included in each student's permanent file.

404: Examination Requirements

- A. All persons seeking registration with the board through a Certificate of Registration must pass the National Certification Exam for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork (NCETMB), the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), and/or any other state, nationally or internationally accredited examination approved by the board. The Mississippi Board Examination will be offered after June 30, 2007 and will be accepted in addition to or in lieu of the NCETMB or NCCAOM.
- B. In the event that the Mississippi Examination is used, it may include the following subjects: Mississippi Law, statutes and rules concerning massage, theory of massage therapy, anatomy, physiology, hydrotherapy, business ethics, and/or any subject deemed standard practice for massage therapists by the board.
- C. The practical examination may require the massage therapist to demonstrate proficiency as determined by the examiners in the following: Western techniques may include but is not limited to effleurage; petrissage; friction; vibration; tapotement; joint movement; continuity of motion; and, Eastern techniques may include but is not limited to 12 Regular Meridians, 8 Extraordinary Meridians; point locations; visceral locations and Five Transformations.
- D. An oral examination may include: Clinical situations; Statutes and Rules; any of the techniques listed in the practical examination (Section C above).
- E. There shall be a maximum score of 100 on the Mississippi written, oral and practical exams. Each question shall be given equal weight. The score necessary to achieve a passing grade for registration shall be 70 percent or better of 100 percent on the written and oral parts of the examination.

405: Reciprocity

- A. An applicant may be registered by demonstrating proof that the applicant holds a valid, current license in another state with similar educational requirements to those required by this chapter, and that all other registration requirements under this chapter are met. This is subject to investigation by the board and excludes grandfathering by other states.
- B. If an individual who is licensed in another state that has licensing standards substantially equivalent to the standards under this chapter applies for registration, the board may issue a Provisional Permit authorizing the applicant to practice massage therapy for up to 30 days, pending completion of documentation that the applicant meets the requirements for registration

under this chapter, including but not limited to the Mississippi Law/Rules & Regulations course. The provisional permit may reflect statutory limitations on the scope of practice.

Reciprocity is defined as follows:

1. From a regulated State:
 - Must be licensed and in good standing with the State regulatory Board (excludes grandfathering), must show proof of at least 3 years work experience as a massage therapist, must show proof of passage scores from the NCETMB or NCCAOM, must take and pass the Mississippi Law/Rules & Regulations course offered by the board, and must submit transcript(s) from a massage therapy school with a minimum of 500 hours of in-class academic education.
2. From a non-regulated state:
 - Must show proof of at least 3 years work experience as a massage therapist, must show proof of passage scores from the NCETMB or NCCAOM, must take and pass the Mississippi Law/Rules & Regulations course offered by the board, and must submit transcript(s) from a massage therapy school with a minimum of 500 hours of in-class academic education.

CHAPTER 5

Application Procedure

501: Phases of the Application Process

- A. Applicant Phase
 1. Individual submits complete application packet including all applicable fees in the form of a certified check or money order.
 2. Complete application materials go before the Board for review.
 3. Applicants who have already taken the NCETMB, NCCAOM or the Mississippi Board Examination and who have submitted official passing scores will be considered for registration by the Board.

502: Administrative Appeal

- A. Where the board refuses to grant, or renew a certificate of registration or revokes or suspends a certificate of registration, an opportunity for a hearing shall be afforded before final action by the board. The board may designate any competent person(s) to preside at such hearing.
- B. After the administrative hearing, the Board will notify the individual of its final decision.
- C. An individual may appeal the decision of the Board to the circuit court of Hinds County.
- D. An applicant may appeal the decision of the circuit court to the Mississippi Supreme Court.

CHAPTER 6

Registration Renewal, Directory, and Duplicate/Replacement Wall Certificates

601: Renewal

Certificates for Registration expire two years from the original date of issue. The following items must be postmarked 30 days prior to expiration for every registered therapist who continues to practice:

- A. Completed renewal form; and, the prescribed registration renewal fee.
- B. As a courtesy, Registered Massage Therapists are notified by mail of renewal.

- C. Failure to receive a renewal notice from the Board will not relieve the registration holder from the renewal requirement.
- D. The late fee must be included for applications postmarked on less than 30 days prior to expiration.
- E. The registered status will be changed to "Expired" for all registrants who fail to renew their registration by their anniversary of their original issue date.
- F. An individual with an "Expired" registration who wishes to return to current status must pay a reapplication fee in addition to the current renewal fee.
- G. "Inactive" Status: Those who wish to put their active registration on the inactive list, remaining there for a period not to exceed three (3) years before returning to active practice, may do so without reexamination or late fees upon submission of all fees and an affidavit provided by the Board requesting inactive status, which shall attest that they shall not perform Massage Therapy for compensation within the State of Mississippi while on inactive status. They shall surrender their certificate to the Board and no certificate shall be issued while on inactive status. To reinstate to active status the registrant must submit an application for renewal, pay the current renewal fee and submit proof to the Board the registrant has satisfied the CEU requirements that would have been applicable had the registrant been on active status. After three (3) years of inactive status, the certificate of registration shall be considered expired.
- H. Any certificate that is not renewed or placed on inactive status before the certificate has lapsed will be deemed expired.
- I. Any individual whose registration has been revoked for failure to pay the required renewal fees for a period of three (3) years must follow the rules set forth in Chapter 4 "Registration Requirements" as if a new applicant.

602: The State of Mississippi Directory of Registered Massage Therapists

- A. Each year, The State of Mississippi Directory of Registered Massage Therapists (Directory) is published.
- B. All registrants who paid the renewal fee on or before their deadline will be included in the Directory as "Active."
- C. All current registrants will be listed in alphabetical order by county of residence.
- D. All current registrants who reside outside of the State of Mississippi will be listed in alphabetical order by their states of residence.
- E. Individuals for whom a renewal fee was not received on or before their expiration, will be included in the Directory as "Expired."
- F. Individuals who have expired, inactive, restricted, surrendered, suspended, or revoked registration will be listed according to the category under which they fall.
- G. Any individual or organization interested in obtaining a Directory shall submit a written request and the required publication fee.

603: Duplicate\Replacement Wall Certificates

- A. Each registrant shall have a current wall certificate attesting to the registrant's title as a Mississippi Registered Massage Therapist at each place of business where massage therapy is practiced. Multiple wall certificates must be obtained from the Board. See Chapter 2, Section 1, E. Mobile therapist may obtain a wallet size copy of the certificate, which must be displayed when performing massage therapy off-site.
- B. Wall certificates issued by the Board are the property of the Board and must be surrendered upon official request.
- C. Each registrant must ensure that the current wall certificate bears his/her current legal name. A registrant in good standing whose name is legally changed may request a replacement wall certificate by submitting the following:
 - 1. Written notification of the change and a request for a new wall certificate bearing the registrant's current legal name;

2. A copy of the legal paper document indicating the change;
 3. Returning the original wall certificate to the MT Board Office; and
 4. Paying the prescribed Duplicate Certificate" fee. See Chapter 2, Section 1,E.
- D. A registrant in good standing may request a replacement wall certificate if his/her original wall certificate was damaged by submitting the following:
1. A written request for a replacement wall certificate;
 2. The damaged original wall certificate; and
 3. Payment of the prescribed Duplicate Certificate fee.
- E. A registrant in good standing may request a replacement wall certificate if his/her original wall certificate was destroyed by submitting the following items:
1. A written request for a replacement wall certificate, indicating that the original wall certificate was destroyed.
 2. A notarized affidavit, including a statement and an explanation that the wall certificate was destroyed; and
 3. Payment of the prescribed Duplicate Certificate fee.
- F. Any other request for a duplicate\replacement wall certificate will be handled by the Board on a case by case basis.
- G. All changes must be in writing to the Board office at least 14 days in advance in the event of any change in address or telephone number for home or business location(s).

CHAPTER 7

Professional Responsibilities

701: Standards of Practice

The protection of the public health, safety, welfare, and the best interest of the public are the guides in determining the appropriate professional conduct of all individuals registered through the Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy. Persons registered by the Board shall adhere to all parts of the Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice with the exception of any parts superceded by the state law.

702: Exemption From Licensure

- A. The provisions of this chapter regarding registration do not apply to the following:
1. Persons state licensed, state registered, state certified, or otherwise state credentialed by the laws of this state to include massage therapy as part of their practice, or other allied modalities that are certified by a nationally accredited organization recognized by the board;
 2. Students enrolled in a massage therapy school and at the same time working in a student clinic.
 3. Out of state massage therapy instructors when teaching in continuing education programs;
- B. Any exemption granted under this section is effective only insofar as and to the extent that the bona fide practice of the profession or business of the person exempted overlaps into the field comprehended by this law, and exemptions under this section are only for those activities that are currently authorized in the course of bona fide practice of the business or profession of the person exempted.

703: Representation as "Registered Massage Therapist" by an Unregistered Person

Any person who represents himself/herself by the title "Registered Massage Therapist" without having first complied with the application procedures set forth and without having been awarded a registration by

the Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy shall be fined of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for each offense.

704: Advertising

- A. Any registered massage therapist advertising by the use of radio, newspaper, television, electronic media, flyers, business cards, phone book or any other means shall include legibly, or clearly audible, the massage therapy certificate of registration number issued to the therapist(s) on and/or with such advertising.
- B. Any and all advertising of the registered massage therapist shall be of a professional and ethical nature and shall not be attached to or identified with any pornographic or other establishment that may be construed as unprofessional and/or unethical in the practice of professional massage therapy.
- C. No practice of, or advertisement by any means of, any type of therapy involving soft tissue movement by the use of any body part, instrument(s) or device(s), or any term that may be interpreted to involve massage, shiatsu, acupressure, oriental, Eastern or Asian massage techniques, spa, rub, or therapeutic touch, shall be allowed unless such therapy is performed by person(s) who are registered or exempt as stated in this chapter.
- D. Providing information concerning continuing education of massage therapy shall not constitute advertising as that term is used in this section. National massage publications and out-of-state instruction/education/information materials are exempt.
- E. The advertising of any designation of massage, including the word "Swedish" (as used in this context), shall not be allowed in conjunction with any other term that the board finds questionable. Questionable terms may include bath, shampoo and escort.
- F. Massage schools that advertise for student clinic, or any other type of student massage must conspicuously include the respective words "student massage" within the advertisement.
- G. Advertisers shall obtain the registration number from each massage therapists before entering into an agreement or contract to advertise any form of massage therapy as stated in this chapter. The registration number(s) shall be part of the actual advertisement.

705: Duties and responsibilities of registered massage therapists

- A. All registered massage therapists shall:
 - 1. Perform only those services for which they are qualified and which represent their training and education;
 - 2. Acknowledge their professional limitations and refer the client to an appropriate health professional when necessary, in cases where massage may be or is contraindicated;
 - 3. Recognize and respect the rights of all ethical practitioners and cooperate with health professionals in a professional manner;
 - 4. Obtain and keep an overview or profile of the client's state of being and health history and discuss any problem areas that may contraindicate massage;
 - 5. Keep accurate and up-to-date records regarding a client's condition before and after massage therapy session in cases of a client being treated for a specific condition. Public, sports and on-site seated massage sessions are exempt from documentation; sports massage sessions are exempt from post event documentation;
 - 6. Provide sensitive attention and response to client's comfort levels for pressure and touch, and shall not cause bruising with any regularity;
 - 7. Maintain clear and honest communications with their clients, and acknowledge the confidential nature of the professional relationship with a client and respect rights to privacy;
 - 8. Abide by all laws that pertain to their work as a massage therapist;
 - 9. In no way instigate or tolerate any kind of sexual advance while acting in the capacity of a massage therapist;

10. Provide and use draping to cover all genitalia;
 11. Clean/disinfect his hands immediately before each massage session and/or use medical gloves.
 12. Prior to the use of electrical hand held massagers, must obtain board approved education regarding use and contraindication for use of such instruments.
- B. No massage therapist shall diagnose or prescribe medicine, drugs or treatment.
 - C. Client intake forms must be signed and dated by the massage therapist and must comply with all Federal and State regulations including but not limited to HIPPA.
 - D. Abide by all Rules and Regulations set forth by the State Board of Massage Therapy.

CHAPTER 8

Complaints, Disciplinary Hearings, Sanctions, Disciplinary Appeal

801: Grounds for Disciplinary Action

- A. The Board may refuse to issue or renew or may deny, suspend or revoke any license or certificate of registration held or applied for under this act upon finding that the holder of a license or certificate of registration or applicant:
 1. Is guilty of fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in procuring or attempting to procure any certificate of registration or license provided for in §73-67-1, et. seq. Miss. Code Ann. (1972) as amended.
 2. Attempted to use as his/her own the certificate of registration of another;
 3. Allowed the use of his/her certificate of registration by another;
 4. Has been adjudicated as mentally incompetent by regularly constituted authorities;
 5. Has been convicted of a crime, or has charges or disciplinary action pending that directly relates to the practice of massage therapy or to the ability to practice massage therapy. Any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for the purposes of this section;
 6. Is guilty of unprofessional or unethical conduct as defined by the code of ethics;
 7. Is guilty of false, misleading or deceptive advertising, or is guilty of aiding or assisting in the advertising of any unregistered or unpermitted person in the practice of massage therapy;
 8. Is grossly negligent or incompetent in the practice of massage therapy; or
 9. Has had rights, credentials, or one or more certificates of registration (s) to practice massage therapy revoked, suspended or denied in any jurisdiction, territory or possession of the United States or another country for acts of the registrant similar to acts described in this section. A certified copy of the record of the jurisdiction making such a revocation, suspension or denial shall be conclusive evidence thereof.
 10. Has been convicted of any felony, other than a violation of federal or state tax laws.
- B. Investigative proceedings may be implemented by a complaint by any person, including members of the Board.
- C. Any person(s) found guilty of prostitution using as any advertisement, claim or insignia of being an actual registered massage therapist or to be practicing massage therapy by using the word "massage" or any other description indicating the same, whether or not such person(s) have one or more such certificate of registration for person(s) or establishment(s), shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), nor more than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00), or imprisonment of up to six (6) months, or both, per offense, per person.
- D. Any person who knowingly participates in receiving illegal services of any person found guilty as described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not

exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or imprisonment for up to one (1) month in jail, or both. Persons officially designated complaints are exempt.

- E. Any person who violates any provision of this act, other than violation(s) of paragraph 'C' of this subsection, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or imprisonment for up to one (1) month in jail, or both, per offense.
 - F. The Board, at its discretion, may assess and tax any part or all of the costs of any disciplinary proceedings conducted against either the accused, the charging party, or both, as it may elect.
- Section 73-67-27(3)(d).

802: Complaint Procedures

Any person who believes he has been aggrieved by a violation of §73-67-1 et. seq. or any Board regulation shall have the right to file a written complaint within two (2) years of the alleged violation. The Board shall maintain a written record of each complaint that is made. The Board shall also send to the complainant a form acknowledging the complaint and requesting further information if necessary.

- A. All complaints concerning a massage therapy school, business or against an individual therapist's professional service or activities shall be received by the Board. Complaints must be submitted in writing on an official complaint form provided by the Board. The Board will assign each complaint a case number.
- B. Each complaint shall be assigned to an individual Board member for investigation, notification, and determination of probable cause. Once the case is assigned to the individual Board member, the Board member becomes the case reviewer.
- C. The Board shall send the appropriate complaint forms to the complainant. The complainant is responsible for completing, notarizing, and returning all forms to the Board Office.
- D. The accused is notified of the complaint and is informed that he/she has ten (10) days to respond. The accused may request an extension, of up to thirty (30) days, to respond to the complaint. Extensions will be granted on a case by case basis. Justification for additional time is determined by the case reviewer.
- E. The Board shall conduct a meeting, with quorum present to hear a compliant case(s) presented by a case reviewer. The Board may at this time:
 - 1. Vote to take no action, if no action is merited; or,
 - 2. Authorize a disciplinary hearing and initiate a formal complaint and notice of disciplinary hearing.
- F. Resolution of any formal complaint may be made between the Board and the accused.

803: Notice of Formal Complaint and Disciplinary Hearing

- A. The Board shall notify the accused that a complaint has been received and that a disciplinary hearing will be held. The accused shall be notified at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the disciplinary hearing.
- B. Notice shall be considered to have been given if the notice was successfully mailed "certified, return receipt requested" to the last known address as listed with the Board, or otherwise served.
- C. The notice shall inform the accused of the facts which are the basis of the complaint and which are specific enough to enable the accused to defend against the complainant. The notice of the complaint shall also inform the accused of the following:
 - 1. The date, time, and the location of the hearing.
 - 2. That the accused may appear personally at the disciplinary hearing and may be represented by counsel; and,
 - 3. That the accused shall have the right to produce witnesses and evidence on the individual(s) behalf and shall have the right to cross-examine adverse witnesses and evidence.
- D. The disciplinary hearing shall be before the Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy and

shall be presided over by the Chair, Senior member, or designee of the Board. Following the disciplinary hearing, the Board shall, in writing, notify the accused as to what sanction(s), if any, shall be imposed and the basis for the Board's action. All disciplinary hearing proceedings are a matter of public record and shall be preserved pursuant to the state law.

- E. All final orders issued by the Board shall be reflected in the Board minutes.
- F. All proceedings pursuant to this section are matters of public record and shall be preserved pursuant to state law.

804: Sanctions

- A. The Board may impose any of the following sanctions, singly or in combination, when it finds that a registrant is guilty of any of the offenses including but not limited to those referred to in Chapter 8:
 - 1. Issuance of a letter of official reprimand to the registrant;
 - 2. Refusal to renew registration;
 - 3. Restriction or limitation of the individual's scope of practice;
 - 4. Suspension of the registered for any period of time; and,
 - 5. Revocation of the registered.
 - 6. Reasonable & customary fines and penalties. 73-67-15 (1) (p)

805: Disciplinary Appeal:

- A. An individual may appeal the decision of the Board to the circuit court of Hinds County.
- B. An applicant may appeal the decision of the circuit court to the Mississippi Supreme Court.
- C. Further appeal shall be pursuant to any remedies available at law.

806. Reinstatement Following Disciplinary Action

- A. Any person whose certificate of registration has been revoked as a result of a disciplinary action may totally reapply for registration, including payment of all fees, one (1) year after the revocation of certificate. All current requirements for registration must be met.
- B. The Board may, at its discretion, grant reinstatement of the certificate of registration following a disciplinary appeal.

CHAPTER 9

901: Instructor Qualification

- A. Any person involved in the supervision or instruction of students must licensed by the Board as and Instructor, be a registered massage therapist in good standing, in all Mississippi Board approved schools of Massage Therapy, during any part of the 700 hours required by MSBMT. Exceptions will be for CPR, First Aid or HIV/AIDS training, Law, Business, or Anatomy and Physiology, who must have other qualifications as specified below. A person desiring to be certified as a massage therapy instructor of a specific therapy technique or clinical practicum-related modality shall produce evidence satisfactory to the Board of Massage Therapy that the applicant:
 - 1. is a graduate from a qualified school of Massage Therapy and is a registered therapist in good standing with the Board of Massage Therapy, and,
 - 2. has lawfully practiced massage therapy for at least three years; and,
 - 3. has completed at least 2 times the hours education in the subject matter, except that this subparagraph shall not apply to instruction of basic Swedish and/or relaxation massage therapy.
 - 4. has at least one (1) year of experience in that subject matter as teachers assistant.

- B. A person desiring to be certified as an instructor of anatomy lecture, physiology lecture, kinesiology lecture or Aids/HIV and infectious disease awareness shall produce evidence satisfactory to the Board of Massage Therapy that the individual either:
 - 1. has a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a college or university which is accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the US Department of Education, or a substantially equivalent accrediting body of a foreign sovereign state, with a major in anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, sports medicine, exercise physiology, nursing, education with a concentration in biology or a substantially equivalent major; or
 - 2. a licensed physician (MD), osteopath or chiropractor.
- C. A person desiring to be certified as an instructor of business practices and marketing shall produce evidence satisfactory to the Board of Massage Therapy that the individual either:
 - 1. is a graduate from a qualified school of Massage Therapy, has a least three years of experience as a full-time practicing massage therapist and owner/operator of a massage therapy establishment; or
 - 2. has a minimum of a bachelors degree from a college or university which is accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the US Department of Education, or a substantially equivalent accrediting body of a foreign sovereign state, with a major in business, marketing, or a substantially equivalent major.
- D. A person desiring to be certified as an instructor of Mississippi Law, Rules and Regulations pertaining to massage therapy shall produce evidence satisfactory to the Board of Massage Therapy that the individual either:
 - 1. is a graduate from a qualified school of Massage Therapy, is a registered massage therapist in good standing with the Board of Massage Therapy and has lawfully practiced massage therapy for at least three years; or
 - 2. is licensed to practice law in Mississippi, as evidenced by a certificate from the Supreme Court of Mississippi that the individual is a member in good standing of the bar of that Court.
- E. A person desiring to be certified as an instructor of hydrotherapy, first aid, safety, hygiene and/or sanitary practices shall produce evidence satisfactory to the Board of Massage Therapy that the individual either:
 - 1. is a graduate from a qualified school of Massage Therapy, is a registered massage therapist in good standing with the Board of Massage Therapy and has lawfully practiced massage therapy for at least three years; or
 - 2. has specialized training satisfactory to the board; or
 - 3. has a minimum of a bachelors degree from a college or university which is accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the US Department of Education, or a substantially equivalent accrediting body of a foreign sovereign state, with a major in nursing, or a substantially equivalent major.
- F. A person desiring to be approved as an instructor of CPR shall produce evidence satisfactory to the Board of Massage Therapy that the individual is certified by the Red Cross or The American Heart Association as an instructor in these topics.
- G. Instructor Licenses must be prominently displayed in the Board approved school where instructing.
- H. The Board licenses instructors and has the right of acceptance or revocation for cause.

902. SCHOOL APPLICATION FOR LICENSE

- A. Any School making application for a license under the Mississippi Board of Massage Therapy Law should contact, in writing:

Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy

P.O. Box 12489
Jackson, MS 39236
Telephone: (601) 919-1517

1. The application packet fee is \$25.00 and must be submitted by certified check or money order.
2. After receipt of the written request, and a \$25.00 application fee, each prospective applicant will be mailed a copy of the Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy Regulations and a copy of the application packet.
- B. The completed application must be returned to the Board along with a non-refundable application fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) payable to the Mississippi Board of Massage Therapy must accompany the application.
- C. A surety bond in the penal sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00). The bond form must be completed by the Insurance Company or Agency and signed by a Mississippi Resident Agent. See 'Attachment C'.
- D. Applicants may file in lieu of the bond, cash, a certificate of deposit or government bonds in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00).
- E. A license shall be granted or denied within sixty (60) days after receipt of the completed application by the Board of Massage Therapy.

903. ANNEX SCHOOL LOCATIONS

- A. A license is only valid for the school and courses for which it is issued. A license does not include other schools or additional locations, unless the Board of Massage Therapy has approved annex or franchise locations on the license application or license renewal application.
- B. Annex Locations
 1. An annex is an additional location that a license may include if:
 - a. The location offers exactly the same courses as the licensed school location; and
 - b. The location is under the same ownership, management and control as that of the licensed location.
 2. An annex location must be applied for on the license.
 3. The annex location must meet all the requirements set forth in these Regulations. This shall include, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Providing complete verification of all information and commitments made in the application for a license or renewal, including but not limited to the following:

General School Information
Instructional Equipment
Job Placement Services
The Student Enrollment Contract
Additional Information
Annex Locations
Facility Information
Program of Study Information
Instructors
Student Grievance Procedure
School Ownership
Evaluation System
Disclosure of Information to Students
Documents Verifying Completion of A Program of Study
Financial Resources Information
Adherence to Refund Policy
Administrators

Bond Information

- b. Making available all records related to the above statement upon request.
- c. Meeting all applicable health and safety standards that may be required by local, state and federal agencies.
- d. The Agreement to notify the Board of changes in any of the following:

Ownership	Job Placement Service
Agents	School Director
Instructors	Financial Stability
Programs of Study	Evaluation System
Facility Standards	School Name
Instructional Equipment	

The loss of financial aid program eligibility

- e. Agreement to maintain all premises, equipment, and facilities of the school in adequate, safe, and sanitary condition.
 - f. Agreement to make enrollees accessible to be interviewed for the purpose of securing information to verify compliance with the conditions of the application for a license or license renewal.
- 4. Annex locations are subject to announced and unannounced visitation by the Board of Massage Therapy or its representatives.
 - 5. Annex locations must have the same name as the licensed location, distinguishable by individual site location.
 - 6. All policies, procedures, tuition, fees, catalogs, and academic calendars utilized at the licensed location must also be utilized at the annex location.
 - 7. If a license is suspended, revoked, or canceled by the Board of Massage Therapy, the licensed school and all annex locations must comply.
 - 8. The approved annex location will be a permanent additional location of the licensed school. This location must always be identified as an annex location on each application for a license renewal.

904. REFUND POLICY

Each school is required to take and keep a record of student attendance for each individual course meeting.

The following Refund Policies shall be stated in School's Catalog. The total tuition charges shall be divided evenly among the quarters.

If a student withdraws or is discontinued after instruction is begun during the first quarter of any program the school may retain no more than:

- 1. (0%) of the quarter's tuition if the termination is during the first week of instruction; or
- 2. (25%) of the quarter's tuition if the termination is during the second week of instruction; or
- 3. (50%) of the quarter's tuition if the termination is during the third week of instruction; or
- 4. (75%) of the quarter's tuition if the termination is during the fourth week of instruction; or
- 5. (100%) of the quarter's tuition if the termination occurs after the fourth week of instruction.

If a student withdraws or is discontinued after instruction is begun during the second or any subsequent quarter of a program the school may retain no more than:

1. (25%) of the quarter's tuition if the termination is during the first week of instruction; or
2. (50%) of the quarter's tuition if the termination is during the second week of instruction; or
3. (75%) of the quarter's tuition if the termination is during the third week of instruction; or
4. (100%) of the quarter's tuition if the termination occurs after the third week of instruction.

Prospective Student's Signature

Date

School Official's Signature

Date

905. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO STUDENTS

Prospective students are entitled to sufficient data which will assist them with making informed decisions regarding training opportunities and institutions. A school is therefore obligated to provide sufficiently detailed data in advance of enrollment to enable prospective students to clearly understand their opportunities, limitations and obligations.

The following information must be fully disclosed to prospective students prior to enrollment and prior to the signing of an enrollment contract or agreement.

- *A. Recruiting Policies
- *B. Admission Requirements
- *C. Academic Calendars
- *D. Grading System Used By the School
- *E. Graduation Policy
- *F. Program Length
- *G. Objectives of the Programs of Study
- *H. Licensing Requirements for Jobs
- *I. Student Support Services
- *J. Campus Security Policy
- K. School's Refund Policy
- *L. Withdrawal Procedures
- M. Tuition and Fees
- N. The percentage of students who have completed their program of study within 150% of the normal time for completion of or graduation from the program of study.
- O. The percentage of your graduates employed in their field of study or related field, within six months after completion of or graduation from their program of study
- P. The percentage of student mastery of stated program of study goals.
- Q. A list of postsecondary educational institutions that have accepted credits from your institution

*The items listed above that are marked with an asterisk may be disclosed via the student catalog.

The items listed above that are not marked with an asterisk must be provided separately from the student catalog and enrollment contract or agreement. This information must be maintained by the school for verification of compliance with this regulatory requirement.

906. ADMISSIONS & RECRUITMENT

A. Admissions

1. The admission policy shall conform to the school's philosophy and objectives, shall be publicly stated, (printed and made available to its students) and shall be administered as written.
2. The school is required to maintain student records which reflect the requirements for admission of all students.
3. An applicant must be eighteen (18) years of age, or older, on the date the application is submitted.
4. An application must provide proof of high school graduate equivalency.
5. An applicant must be of legal status not only to receive a certificate of registration, but also to work in the State of Mississippi with that certificate of registration.
6. Any and all requirements regarding good moral character and competency, as provided for in §73-67 and in accepted codes of ethics, shall be met.

B. Recruitment

1. Recruiting shall be ethical and compatible with the educational objectives of the school.
2. The school should provide, in writing, the information being communicated to students. This will insure that each representative is communicating current and accurate information. Recruitment information should include the following:
 - a. Programs of Study and Individual Courses
 - b. Tuition and Fees
 - c. Terms
 - d. School Operating Policies
 - e. Certificates
 - f. Diplomas
 - g. Transfer of Credit Hours
 - h. Graduation Policies
 - i. The percentage of students who have completed their program of study within 150% of the normal time for completion of or graduation from the program of study.
 - j. The percentage of your graduates employed in their field of study or related field, within six months after completion of or graduation from their program of study
3. Representatives of the school shall use only those titles which accurately reflect their actual duties and responsibilities.

907. ADVERTISEMENT

- A. Any promotional literature used by a school must be presented in such a manner as to be factual with respect to services offered and/or benefits received.
- B. A school licensed by the Board of Massage Therapy shall use the statement "Licensed by the Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy, License No. _____" on all advertising, both oral and written, and on all school publications.
- C. A licensed school is allowed to advertise the prices of clinical services as long as the advertisement clearly states **"all work is performed by students"**.

908. RECORDS

- A. Each school shall develop and maintain adequate records pertaining to students and the school's administrative operations. These records should include, but are not limited to the following:
1. Student attendance for each individual course meeting via daily sign-in-sheets.
 2. Administrators
 3. Instructors
 4. Staff
 5. Student activities
 6. Student academic records
 7. Student enrollment
 8. Student admission
 9. Student enrollment contracts
 10. Financial aid information
 11. Job placement service information
 12. Program of study and individual courses
 13. Graduation information
 14. Instructional supplies and equipment
 15. The Library or the Instructional Resource Center
 16. The physical facility
 17. Student withdrawals
 18. Student refund policy
 19. Student financial records (tuition, fees, payments, refunds, etc.)
 20. Student complaints
- B. A permanent academic record (transcript) shall be maintained of the student's progress. Compatible with the school's philosophy and objectives, the transcript shall indicate student accomplishment in terms of clock hours. The grading system used shall be fully explained on the transcript.
- C. Each school shall maintain a record listing of all students who enroll which shall include, but is not limited to the student's name, address, telephone number, social security number, programs of study, start date, and anticipated graduation date. This information should be current as of the date on which the student enrolls and shall be available for inspection by or submission to the Board of Massage Therapy.
- D. All basic records and reports pertaining to students and staff shall be maintained so that they will be safe from theft, fire, or other possible loss.
- E. In the event that a school closes its facility, the Board of Massage Therapy must be informed of:
1. The location of all student records; and
 2. Information pertaining to how students may obtain these records.

909. CERTIFICATES OR DIPLOMAS

The conferring of diplomas, degrees, certificates, or other written evidence of proficiency issued by a school shall be consistent with applicable state laws.

910. INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

- A. The instructional resources, including audiovisual teaching equipment and instructional materials, shall meet the needs of the school's educational program.
- B. An evaluation of this material may be conducted to verify items listed on the application for new and existing schools.
- C. A school should have available, and make easily accessible, to faculty and students such standard references relative to the educational philosophy and objectives of the school. Availability and utilization of audiovisual equipment is also important.

911. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

- A. Each school must provide an environment that is conducive to effective instruction, promotes learning, and supports the educational programs offered by the school.
- B. The buildings, classrooms, equipment, furniture, grounds, instructional tools, instructional facilities, machinery, and other physical requirements of the educational program shall be appropriate and shall contribute to the achievement of the educational philosophy and objectives of the school.
- C. The school shall meet the general test of safety, usefulness, cleanliness, maintenance, health, lighting, and compliance with any local or state laws governing physical facilities, particularly with respect to fire, safety, and sanitation.

912. CLASSROOM FACILITIES

- A. Academic Classes
 - 1. Classroom size: Regular classrooms shall contain a minimum of 600 square feet of floor space, or a minimum of 20 square feet per student enrolled, whichever is greatest.
 - 2. Equipment: Every classroom shall provide appropriate equipment for students and teachers.
 - a. Individual student seats and desks or tables and chairs chosen for comfort
 - b. Teacher's desk
 - c. Filing and storage facilities
 - d. Sufficient amounts of chalkboard and tack board
 - e. Shades or Venetian blinds to improve visual comfort and efficiency
 - f. Adequate laboratory facilities, equipment, and supplies for courses offered
- B. Non Academic and Clinic classes
 - 1. Classroom Size: The minimum size of the classroom shall be 600 square feet and equipped to provide the greatest possible learning experience.
 - 2. Classroom Equipment will conform to the section under academic.
 - 3. In Clinical, laboratory or skills training classes, a minimum of one massage table per every three students enrolled.
 - 4. Massage tables shall have a minimum of three (3) feet spacing around each table.

913. STUDENT - INSTRUCTOR RATIO

- A. The student-instructor ratio should be reasonable at all times in keeping with general accepted teaching modes for the subject matter. Skills training require more individual instruction or attention thereby requiring smaller classes. Student enrollment for any class that exceeds the following ratios requires the presence of a qualified instructor assistant.
 - 1. The student-instructor ratio shall not exceed 20 to 1.
 - 2. Ratios for skills training, laboratory or Clinical instruction shall not exceed 15 students per instructor.

914. EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

- A. The course content and length of instruction shall be of such nature and quality as to assure that the students will adequately develop the job skills and knowledge necessary for passing any and all examinations required for registration by the Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy as well as obtaining employment in the occupation for which the instruction is offered.
- B. Instructional practices: Schools shall provide favorable conditions for effective classroom instruction. A total pattern of successful instruction includes (a) well defined instructional objectives, (b) systematic planning, (c) selection and use of varied types of learning materials and experiences, (d) adaptation of organization and instructional procedures to student needs, (e) use of varied evaluation instruments and procedures, and (f) good student and teacher morale.

- C. Board approved Schools of Massage Therapy must provide proof to the Board of an annual success rate that is demonstrated by at least 75% of the graduates of their programs attaining pass rate on any Exam required for registration with this Board.

School Licenses

- a. Temporary licenses are issued to new schools, for a 1 year period, with less than two graduating classes reporting less than 75% pass rate, and quarterly reports are required.
 - b. Probationary licenses indicate warning status, these licenses are issued to schools with multiple recommendations for improvement, for a 1 year period, reporting less than 75% pass rate, and quarterly reports are required. Prospective students prior to enrolling and enrolled students must be notified in writing of the schools probationary status.
 - c. Non-conditional License for schools showing proof of a 75% pass rate or higher and no violations or recommendations are issued these for a 2 year period. Annual reports are required.
 - d. Schools are permitted to utilize the Mississippi Board Examination as a final exam upon remittance of application fees. Schools on Temporary or Probationary license status are strongly urged to do so. Applicants who pass the Mississippi Board Examination will have met the requirement for competency testing and upon graduation may proceed to the Registration process without further State or National testing. All other provisions of the application apply.
 - e. Probationary status for schools that previously held a non-conditional license shall not exceed 2 years.
 - f. The combined temporary and probationary status for new schools shall not exceed 5 year period before moving to a non-conditional license.
- D. Massage Therapy School owners, instructors and/or employees or contractors of the school shall adhere to generally accepted Codes of Ethics as well as the Mississippi Board of Massage Therapy Code of Ethics and shall regard students with the same care and consideration as clients.
- E. The Board of Massage Therapy will evaluate school curriculum for conformance with educational requirements set forth by the Mississippi Professional Massage Therapy Act.

915. ATTENDANCE AND SIGN IN SHEETS

- A. If a student misses more than 10% of any class for any reason, the class must be repeated.
- B. If a student is late for a class 10 minutes or more, it shall constitute a tardy.
- C. Three tardys in a class shall constitute an absence.
- D. A sign in sheet must be retained on file with other class records to include the students name, signature, date, class title, time in/time out, instructors signature and assistant's signature (if applicable). No class credit shall be given for lost or missing sign in sheets, or for failure of a student to sign in.

916. EMPLOYMENT BASED ON COMMISSION

No school may employ a recruiter on the basis of a commission, bonus or quota.

917. CHANGES DURING THE SCHOOL LICENSURE PERIOD

- A. The Board of Massage Therapy must be informed of any changes in the following areas:
 1. Ownership
 2. School Name
 3. Instructors
 4. Programs of Study

- 5. Evaluation Methods
- 6. Job Placement Service
- 7. Administrators
- 8. Financial Stability
- 9. Location
- B. Change of Ownership

918. SCHOOL CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP, LOCATION or TRADE NAME; ADDITION OF PARTNERS; RENOVATION OF EXISTING SCHOOL.

- A. No license is transferable from one owner to another or from one location to another.
- B. School owners who contemplate selling or transferring the ownership of a school must notify the board, in writing, prior to sell or transfer.
- C. An application for Initial School Approval must be submitted to the board by the prospective owners, in accordance with Rule 902.
- D. The sale or transfer must not be completed until the application of the new owner has been approved.
- E. Addition of Partners:
 - 1. School owners who contemplate the addition of a partner, must notify the board, in writing, of their intent to so do.
 - 2. At any time the original applicant is no longer a partner in the school, an Application for Initial School Approval will be required.
- F. Change of location:
 - 1. School owners who contemplate a relocation of a school must submit an application for relocation on a form prescribed and provided by the board. The approved application requires the submission of, at least:
 - 2. A floor plan of the proposed school, indicating room measurements, placing of equipment, partitions, entrances and exists, and plumbing.
 - 3. Copies of brochures, catalogs, or any advertising materials in use or proposed to be used.
 - 4. Certificate or letter indicating that the facility has met building or fire code requirements of local authorities.
 - 5. Schedule of teachers, indicating full time/part time.
 - 6. Detailed Financial Statement indicating individual or corporate solvency.
 - 7. Required fee.
 - 8. Relocation of School of Massage Therapy within a radius of 15 miles from the existing school may not require submission of:
 - a. Copies of brochures, catalogs, or advertising materials, *unless* there have been substantial changes made.
 - b. Schedule of Teachers, *unless* there has been a change in those schedules from that which is on file at the board.
- G. Upon receipt a completed Application for School Approval, the board will conduct an Inspection. The inspection will be conducted in order to determine that all requirements as indicated in the application, have been strictly adhered to by the owners. The inspection will be performed by two or more agents of the Board, at least one of which will be a board member, for purposes of determining:
 - 1. Suitability of:
 - (a) the location
 - (b) rooms, including adequacy of floor space, plumbing, lighting, etc, in accordance with floor plan.
 - (c) items of equipment and material.
 - 2. School has met building or fire code requirements as evidenced by inspection report of local authorities

3. Satisfactory evidence of proper provisions for duly licensed teachers and Manager/Supervisor.
 4. The findings of this inspection will be submitted to the board for its approval at its next regular meeting, and the applicant will be notified in writing, of the decision of the board, within 30 days.
 5. If all requirements and qualifications are met, written approval will be issued. No school will be considered approved for licensure until same has been executed.
 6. The Massage Therapy Board reserves the right to deny school approval to any applicant who fails to meet the requirements for conducting a school and/or who fails to present satisfactory evidence of his or her business, professional and personal integrity.
- H. In most cases, violators will be given the opportunity to resolve first instances of noncompliance. Failure to respond to the violation will be recommended to the Board for administrative hearing or for referral to the proper city/county/authorities.
1. There will be a \$100.00 fee charged to the school for each additional inspection required due to noncompliance.
 2. A second offense of the same violation within a three (3) year period will be recommended to the Board for administration hearing or for referral to the proper city/county/authorities.

919. EVALUATION OF A SCHOOL

- A. The Board of Massage Therapy may conduct periodic announced and unannounced evaluations of a school.
- B. These evaluations will be to determine if the school is complying with the Mississippi State Board Law and Regulations. This evaluation will also be used to verify that the school is in compliance with material presented in its application.
- C. Any of the following areas may be evaluated during visitation:
 1. General School Information (Location, Telephone, Advertisements, etc.)
 2. Type of Ownership
 3. Personnel
 4. Equipment
 5. Evaluation System
 6. Job Placement Services
 7. Disclosure of Required Information to Students
 8. Financial Resources
 9. Facilities
 10. Refund Policy Procedures
 11. Program of Study and Individual Course Information
- D. The school will be notified of the results of the evaluation, and may be requested to provide information concerning any questionable areas.

920. SCHOOL CLOSING

In the event that a school closes a facility, the following is required:

- A. The Board of Massage Therapy must be informed within sixty (60) days of:
 1. Proof of official closing date.
 2. Proof of reason for the closure.
 3. Proof of method developed to assist students with the completion of their program of study and individual courses.
 4. Proof of notice sent to all currently enrolled students, notifying them of the closure.
 5. Proof of notice given to students indicating where they may obtain any of their records.
 6. Proof of disposition of student records, with a contact person, complete address, and telephone number and how students may be obtained.

7. Proof of notice sent to all students who have paid for any tuition and/or fees for future enrollment in a program of study or individual course informing them of the closure, and refund information.
- B. In the event a school files a bankruptcy petition, a certified copy must be filed with the Board of Massage Therapy.

921. SCHOOL LICENSE RENEWAL

- A. The following information must be returned simultaneously to the Board of Massage Therapy at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of the current license:
1. The License Renewal Application completed in its entirety, and signed by the school owner. Be certain that all sections are completed and included.
 2. An application renewal fee of \$500.00 is payable to the Board of Massage Therapy.
- B. If the renewal fee and application are not received at least thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date of the school's current license, in addition to the renewal fee, a delinquent fee of \$250.00 will be charged.
- C. If the renewal application and renewal fee are not received by the expiration date of the current license, the current license will expire and the school or college must reapply as a new applicant. The registered school and all annex and franchise locations will be notified to cease operation. A copy of this notification will be sent to the Attorney General's Office.
- D. All programs of study must be approved by the Board of Massage Therapy prior to being offered to students.

922. SCHOOL LICENSE SUSPENSION/REVOCATION OR CANCELLATION:

- A. The Board of Massage Therapy may suspend, revoke or cancel a license for any one (1) or any combination of the following causes:
1. Violation of any provision of §73-67 or any regulation made by the Board;
 2. The furnishing of false, misleading or incomplete information requested by the Board;
 3. The signing of an application or the holding of a license by a person who has pleaded guilty or has been found guilty of a felony or has pleaded guilty or been found guilty of any other indictable offense;
 4. The signing of an application or the holding of a license by a person who is addicted to the use of any narcotic drug, or who is found to be mentally incompetent;
 5. Violation of any commitment made in an application for a license;
 6. Presentation to prospective students of misleading, false or fraudulent information relating to the course of instruction, employment opportunity, or opportunities for enrollment in accredited institutions of higher education after entering or completing courses offered by the holder of a license;
 7. Failure to provide or maintain premises or equipment for offering courses of instruction in a safe and sanitary condition;
 8. Failure to maintain financial resources adequate for the satisfactory conduct of courses of study as presented in the plan of operation or to retain a sufficient number and qualified staff of instruction;
 9. Conviction or a plea of nolo contendere on the part of any owner, operator or director of a licensed school of any felony under Mississippi law or the law of another jurisdiction;
 10. Incompetence of any owner or operator to operate a school.
 11. The Board may suspend a license upon the failure of a school to pay any fee, fine or penalty as required unless such a failure is determined by the Board to be for good cause.

CHAPTER 10

1001. Continuing Education Requirements

- A. Each registered massage therapist shall complete a minimum of twelve (12) hours of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) each calendar year. See Chapter 9, Section 3 (A) for requirements of approved CEU Providers and Programs. A maximum of three (3) CEUs per year may be obtained through approved home study programs. Effective June 2005, CPR and First Aid certifications will be required with the initial registration only and may not be used for CEU's. CEUs may carryover for no more than four (4) calendar years.
- B. The continuing education requirement set forth in Paragraph (A) above shall not apply to a massage therapist during the calendar year in which the therapist is first registered in Mississippi. The continuing education requirement shall apply to the registrant for every calendar year of registration thereafter.
- C. One hour of continuing education is defined as no less than 50 uninterrupted minutes of instruction, with no credit to be given for introduction of the speaker, meal breaks or business meetings. Sessions of less than fifty minutes but more than thirty minutes shall be counted as one-half hour. Instructional sessions of less than thirty minutes shall be disregarded for purposes of counting CEU credits.
- D. Presenters/moderators/instructors of courses shall not receive credit for courses they present.
- E. Each year, an application for renewal will be mailed to each registered therapist at the last address provided to the board. Applicants shall submit a copy of the CEU certificate received with the application. The CEU certificate shall have signature of instructor, location, date, time, name of the course, Mississippi Provider and Program registration number and number of hours given.
- F. Failure of the registrant to satisfy the requirements of this rule shall be a violation and shall subject the registrant to disciplinary actions pursuant to these rules.

1002: Requirements for Board Approval of Continuing Education Providers and Programs

- A. For the purpose of renewing or reinstating a certificate of registration, credit for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be awarded only for providers and programs approved by the board. Each provider must make application for board approval on forms provided by board, submit a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for an initial request for provider approval and one hundred dollars for a bi-annual request for provider renewal, and a fee of fifty dollar program application and demonstrate that the provider will meet the following requirements:
 - 1. The provider must retain a "sign-in sheet" with the signature of participants and copies of any promotional materials for at least four years following each program. The provider must furnish each participant with a certificate or letter of attendance verifying that the program has been completed. The certificate or letter shall not be issued until completion of the program and shall contain the provider's name and number, the title of the program and instructor, the date, the number of CEU hours, and the therapist's name and registration number. Within thirty days after the program, the provider must send a copy of the sign-in sheets to the board, together with a listing of the names and addresses of the persons who received a certificate or letter of attendance for the program. A CEU Certificate can not be issued for less than the number of hours approved.
 - 2. Each program presented for Mississippi CEU credits shall be relevant to and focus on massage theory, practice, methods, or laws, regulations and ethical principles pertaining to the practice of massage therapy and shall have stated learning objectives. No Mississippi CEU credits will be approved for programs that include instruction in diagnosis, the treatment of illness or disease, or any service or

procedure that otherwise exceeds the scope of massage therapy as defined by accepted standards for massage therapy.

3. Each program presented for Mississippi CEU credits shall be taught by a person who:
 - a. holds a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a college or university which is accredited by a regional accrediting body recognized by the United States Department of Education, or a substantially equivalent accrediting body of a foreign sovereign state, with a major in a subject directly related to the content of the program to be offered; or,
 - b. has completed at least three years of professional experience in the practice of massage therapy; and
 - (i) has, within the last five years of practical experience, had a minimum of two years teaching experience in the subject matter to be offered; or,
 - (ii) has completed specialized training in the subject matter satisfactory to the Board and has a minimum of two years of practical experience in the subject; or,
 4. The provider must provide to the board, in writing, the name and address of the person responsible for ensuring that each program meets the requirements of subparagraphs (1) through (3) above and said person shall so certify in the application for provider approval.
- B. Providers must have approval, in writing, from the board before disseminating any notices that their program is approved for renewal credit. In the event a provider does advertise approval by board and approval has not been granted in writing, that provider will be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1000.00 and will be subject to a period of up to two years, during which time no application for approval of continuing education programs by that provider will be considered for approval. At the end of that two year period all fines must have been paid before any applications are considered for any future programs by that provider.
- C. Program Approval. Providers approved pursuant to Paragraph (A) above may obtain approval for all programs to be offered for the full duration of their two-year period as an approved provider. Providers may obtain program approval by making timely application on a form approved by the board, submitting a program fee of \$50 that will cover all programs within the two year period that is exactly the same material presented and the same presenter. The provider must demonstrate that each program and presenter meets the requirements of Paragraph (A) above. The provider may amend the program application at any time during the two-year period to add additional programs and/or presenters after an application has been approved by the State Board and a \$50.00 fee has been paid. Approval for a particular program will be denied if sought later than forty-five days before the start of the program.
- D. Out-of-State Program Approval. Mississippi registrants may request approval of an individual out-of-state program that has not been approved pursuant to the foregoing provisions by submitting forty five days before the date of the program, an application form approved by the board, all materials showing curriculum objectives and presenter qualifications pursuant to and satisfying paragraph A (2) (3) above and a program review fee of \$50.00. If the individual is seeking approval for multiple programs offered at a national convention of a professional massage therapy organization, only a single \$50.00 fee need be paid by the licensee to seek approval for the multiple programs. Approval shall be for the program sessions attended by the Mississippi registrant.
- E. Provider Renewal. A certificate from the board approving a provider pursuant to Paragraph (A) above shall be valid through the second December 31st following the date that the certificate was issued. During the certificate renewal period, an application for renewal will be mailed to the

provider at the last address supplied to the board. In order to obtain renewal of the certificate, the provider must return the executed renewal form to the board on or before the expiration date of the current certificate, together with a provider renewal fee of \$100.

F. Statement as to Approval

1. The provider of a program approved for Mississippi CEU's, including Nationally Approved Providers and Programs under Paragraph (C) above, may announce or indicate as follows in advertising, promotional and other materials: "This program has been approved by the Mississippi Board of Massage Therapy for a maximum of ____ hours CEU credit." No other statement regarding Mississippi CEU approval may be made in advertising, promotional and/or other materials, including, but not limited to, a statement that an application has been made to the Board for approval or that the provider intends to apply for approval.
2. Providers may offer programs that are not approved pursuant to this Section. However, if a provider offers a program for which approval is not sought, or for which approval has been denied, the provider must announce in all advertising, promotional and other materials concerning the program as follows: "Not offered for Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy CEU's".

G. Authority to Review and Revoke Approval. The board retains the right and authority to audit and/or monitor CEU providers and/or programs. The board may at any time evaluate any provider and/or program and deny, revoke, and/or decline to renew approval of that provider and/or program for good cause. This right to deny, revoke and/or decline to renew approval includes, but is not limited to, the right to deny, revoke and/or decline to renew approval if the provider has disseminated any false or misleading information in connection with the continuing education program or if the provider has failed to conform to and abide by any governing standards, rules and/or written agreements concerning the provider and/or program.

CHAPTER 11

Massage Establishments

1101: Advertising, Business License and other Requirements

- A. Massage establishments shall be exempt with 6 or more registered massage therapists from the advertising provisions found in Section 73-67-29 (Chapter 7, Section 4) provided that such therapy or service is performed by person(s) registered under this chapter.
- B. Sanitary lavatories or wash basins provided with an adequate supply of both hot and cold running water shall be available. Lavatories or wash basins shall be provided with soap in a dispenser and paper, individual use towels, or air dryers.
- C. Sanitary linens shall be provided for each individual client.
- D. Any out call massage shall have a previous recording of the client's name, address where the therapy is to occur, estimated time of return, and phone number (if available) in a conspicuous record.
- E. Every massage establishment shall be equipped with a workable telephone for emergency calls.
- F. A copy of the Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy Code of Ethics and Professional conduct shall be prominently displayed.
- G. Every massage establishment shall have prominently displayed during business hours a current and valid Provisional Permit or Certificate of Registration issued by the Mississippi State Board of Massage Therapy for every person who provides massage therapy services on the premises or offsite on behalf of the establishment.
- H. It shall be the responsibility of a massage therapy establishment to verify the current registration of any and all persons practicing massage therapy at the location of or on behalf of the

establishment. Failure to comply is subject to penalty assessed by the Board of not less than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) per offense.

- I. Massage therapists or establishments may not be discriminated against by cities or municipalities in obtaining business licenses and shall be treated as any other health care profession.